



2023 IMPACT REPORT

WEST AFRICA REGION



Acknowledgements

World Vision is a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. This report highlights the achievements from the countries where World Vision works across the West Africa region, namely Burkina Faso, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone. The report covers our 2023 Fiscal Year (FY22), which is the period from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023.

The achievements are a result of the strong dedication by staff, partners, sponsors, and communities in implementing high-quality, evidence-based interventions, for the well-being of children. We acknowledge the Almighty God who gave us the wisdom, strength and good health to successfully carry out our activities and achieve the successes expressed herein.

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Cover photo: Children at a local school in Bebuso community, Ghana, happily play in their classroom. Through World Vision's support, the community has received access to clean water through a borehole, relieving children of the burden of walking long distances to fetch water. **Ben Adams/World Vision.**

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Sandra, a child sponsored through World Vision, peacefully sits as she reads. Through sponsorship, she has the opportunity to confidently engage with her community, attend educational programmes, and read freely.

Photographer: Ben Adams/World Vision

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Foreword

Dear friends,

I am delighted to present to you our West Africa Region Impact Report for the year 2023. Reflecting on our achievements, I am deeply inspired by the remarkable milestones that we have accomplished across the nine country offices in our region in our mission to ensure life in all its fullness for every child.

During 2023, the intertwined challenges of conflict, climate change, and food insecurity exacerbated vulnerability for children and families. Furthermore, the changing donor landscape impacted by political instability presented a significant challenge in meeting the increasing needs of the communities we serve.

Despite these challenges and by God's grace, World Vision reached more than **14 million** people across the region through our collaborative efforts to implement innovative transformational development programmes, deliver life-saving humanitarian services, and advocate for the rights and well-being of children in need. Demonstrating our agility, we diversified our funding sources and achieved over and above our fundraising target, which enabled us to sustain our momentum and growth from previous years and reach even more vulnerable populations.

In the Central Sahel region, where a complex crisis has left more than **72 million** children without access to education, we deepened our focus and partnerships to deliver interventions aimed at ensuring that children

from affected communities in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger received access to quality, equitable, nurturing, and protective educational opportunities. Across West and Central Africa, we scaled up our work to address the hunger crisis, reaching more people with food assistance. In this regard, we reached more than **1.5 million** people across seven countries including Sierra Leone and Mauritania.

Our collaboration with government and non-governmental partners, community health workers, parents, caregivers, faith leaders, and children themselves enabled us to reach more than **5.8 million** people through initiatives to strengthen local health systems, fight malnutrition, implement capacity-building and behaviour change interventions, and promote health and nutrition practices. Furthermore, our work to provide school meals in countries such as Central African Republic extended beyond improving children's health, productivity, and education outcomes to ensuring that girls stay in school.

Throughout the year, savings groups supported by World Vision and boosted by loans from VisionFund in Ghana, Mali and Senegal made it possible for more families to build or improve water, hygiene and sanitation facilities in their homes. This integrated approach played a key role in ensuring that we reached more than **1.8 million** people through our overall water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.

As part of scaling up our interventions in climate

action, gender equality and social inclusion, and urban and fragile contexts programming, we partnered with communities to deliver over **35,000** information sessions on gender equality notions, women rights, and strategies to increase the participation of people living with disabilities in community development. We also provided training to farmers that resulted in the restoration and protection of over **5,600** hectares of land.

By mobilising communities, forming coalitions, and engaging faith groups strategically, our advocacy interventions brought tangible changes not only to policies but also to the lives they affect. We collaborated to bolster child protection mechanisms across the region, such as in Chad where the national policy on child protection has laid a foundational framework safeguarding more than **7.5 million** children against early marriage and ensuring their right to education. To ensure that their voices were amplified in national, regional, and global discussions, we engaged children and young people such as Mariama, an incredible speaker and advocate who was nominated as Young Champion to End Child Marriage in Sierra Leone.

The global launch of our ENOUGH campaign in 2023 – named thus because we have had ENOUGH of hunger and malnutrition needlessly affecting the most vulnerable children – laid the foundation to pursue our bold ambition to end hunger and malnutrition for girls and boys across our region. We believe that it is not just

about survival, but about ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive and overcome challenges.

I am immensely grateful for the unwavering support and dedication of our incredible team of staff, Board, and Advisory Council members and the network of partners, donors, volunteers, and supporters which have made these achievements possible. Together, we have leveraged our resources, expertise, and passion to address some of the most pressing challenges facing children in our region.

I invite you to celebrate with us and to read our report, which showcases the positive and transformational impact of our work on the most vulnerable children and communities across the region. God bless you!



Carla Dominique Denizard

Regional Leader - World Vision West Africa

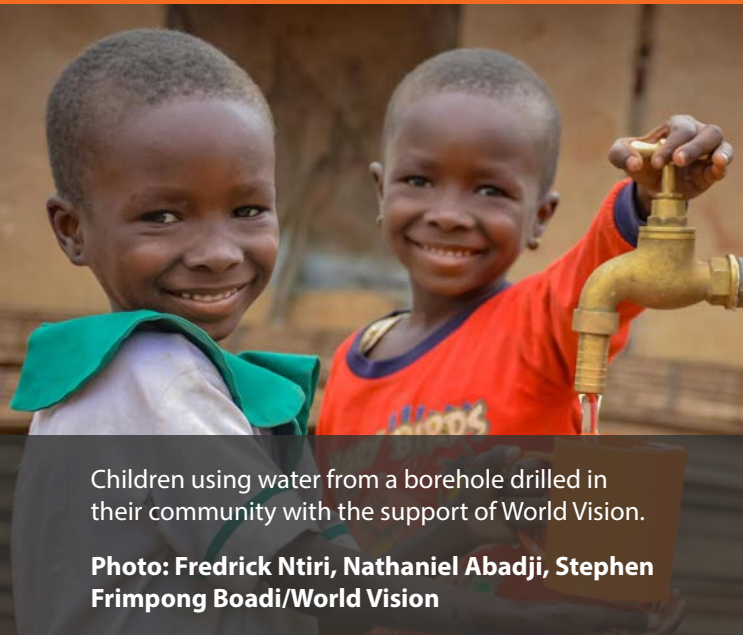


Carla Dominique Denizard visits a savings group in Niger's Dosso area. With their savings, members are able to provide sufficiently towards their children's health and overall well-being.

Photo: Tabita Ali Soumaila/World Vision

About Us

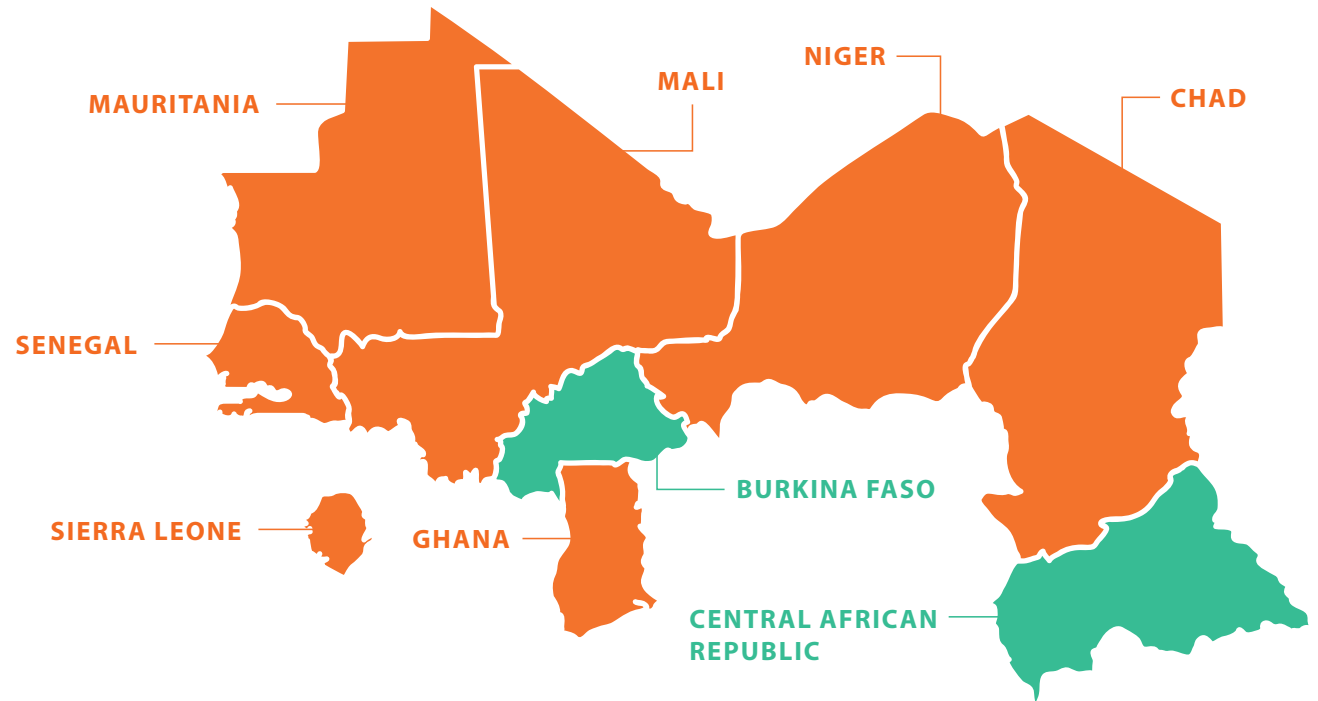
World Vision believes that even the most vulnerable children deserve a chance at a bright future. As a global Christian relief, development, and advocacy organisation we help children, families and communities overcome poverty and injustice, irrespective of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. In West and Central Africa, we partner with communities in Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.



Children using water from a borehole drilled in their community with the support of World Vision.

Photo: Fredrick Ntiri, Nathaniel Abadji, Stephen Frimpong Boadi/World Vision

Our Footprint



7 NATIONAL OFFICES

2 RESPONSE OFFICES

43 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

1,900+ STAFF

365 ACTIVE TECHNICAL PROJECTS

138 ACTIVE AREA PROGRAMMES

31 ACTIVE GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS

15 PROJECTS MODELS

5 ACTIVE TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES

Our Approaches to Change

Driven by a desire to serve God and make a lasting impact in the world, World Vision is a leading global partner in transforming the lives of vulnerable children, within their families and communities, so they can become all that God created them to be.

For the past 43 years, World Vision has been serving communities across West and Central Africa in contexts where the most vulnerable children struggle to survive. As part of a global community dedicated to changing the lives of children, we support children and communities through relief, development, and advocacy approaches. Guided by the principles of transformational development, we partner with churches, faith communities, governments, businesses, community-based organisations, and other non-governmental organisations to allow this work to happen.

We envision a world in which...

Photos: Children and adults who have benefitted from World Vision's various interventions across the region.

Enjoy **good health**



Are **educated for life**



Girls & Boys



Are **cared for, protected, and participating**



Experience **love of God and their neighbours**

Our Contribution to Sustainable Development

-  Livelihoods and Food Security
-  WASH
-  Education
-  Nutrition
-  Child Protection
-  Health
-  Advocacy and External Engagement
-  Disaster Management
-  ESCA



Our Models & Approaches



Health and Nutrition:

Timed and Targeted Counselling to craft a user-friendly set of messages tailored to the specific stage of pregnancy or infancy, emphasizing essential health practices and services, utilizing a conversational and negotiation-based approach.

Community Health Committees to empower health-focused community groups to coordinate and manage activities leading to increased community capacity, strengthened community health systems and improved overall community health.

Positive Deviance/Hearth to sustainably rehabilitate underweight children and empower families and communities to discover and apply local solutions to child malnutrition.

Community Management of Acute Malnutrition to rehabilitate malnourished children by tailoring treatment to their nutritional and medical requirements, primarily delivering care through home-based interventions supplemented by weekly health facility visits for ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and medical assistance, reserving in-patient care for a minority.

Livelihoods:

Building Secure Livelihoods to support marginally poor households to improve their agricultural production and make a profitable farming venture to increase family income in a sustainable manner.

Ultra Poor Graduation to provide extremely poor households with a pathway out of poverty by helping families engage in a productive and resilient livelihood.

Savings for Transformation to facilitate access to credit for vulnerable communities, mostly women.

Child Protection:

Child Protection Advocacy to mobilise joint action between formal and informal child protection actors in the community and society to strengthen the protective environment for children.

Celebrating Families to reconcile parents and their children through positive parenting.

Channels of Hope to involve religious leaders to help promote the adoption of healthy behaviours by parents and children.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

Integrated water and sanitation & Hygiene (iWASH) to ensure the sustained provision of safe water, dignified sanitation and effective hygiene practices across a variety of contexts.

Education:

Unlock literacy to raise pupils' reading levels.

Children & Youth Voices



"Climate change poses a serious threat to the well-being of children. Irregular rainfall causes hunger, malnutrition, and inadequate living conditions, exposing children to disease. We must act now! Let's secure their future!"

Vanessa (16)

Central African Republic



"I am happy I can now read well and help others do so. I want to become a teacher like my class teacher, Mr. Charles, and also help more children in my community learn to read."

Samuel (8, right)

Ghana



"I have been coming to this child-friendly space since it opened. I meet up with my friends here and play constantly and have a great time. These moments give me comfort and hope and allow me to forget my worries. My participation in the activities here also protects me from the vices and attempts that surround me when I stay at home. We receive a lot of advice here as teenage girls to protect ourselves from attacks and abuse."

Rachidatou (14)

Niger



"Now, I'm happy to go to school! Next year, I will be doing 3rd grade. My mother will buy my school supplies with the money we received. I would like to warmly thank World Vision for the cash assistance they have given us."

Nouhoum (13)

Mali



“Thanks to the support of World Vision, our lives have changed positively. We have water in our backyard – which gives me time to properly review my lessons at home and I would say it helped improve my grades at school... Water is life, life is beautiful with water!”

Jiddah (11)

Mauritania



“Thanks to World Vision’s support, I have been able to start school. I am very happy!”

Jules (5)

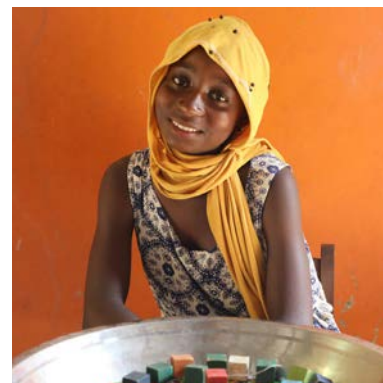
Burkina Faso



“I am more than excited because before this time, we were the ones who chose our sponsors. When it was the other way around, it would make me feel not competent, smart, beautiful, or lucky enough to be chosen by any sponsor. But today, we are the ones choosing them!”

Doris (10)

Sierra Leone



“I am very happy to have a sponsor who supports me in my studies and in my life. I receive a lot of gifts like clothes and notebooks and also letters. That motivates me more. I have noticed a lot of positive change in my life since I became a sponsored child. I would like to become an engineer to help my community to develop further.”

Sellou (15)

Senegal



“Good health enables me to pursue my education. I am thankful to World Vision for this support!”

Amon (8)

Chad

2023 in Numbers



14 Million +
People Reached

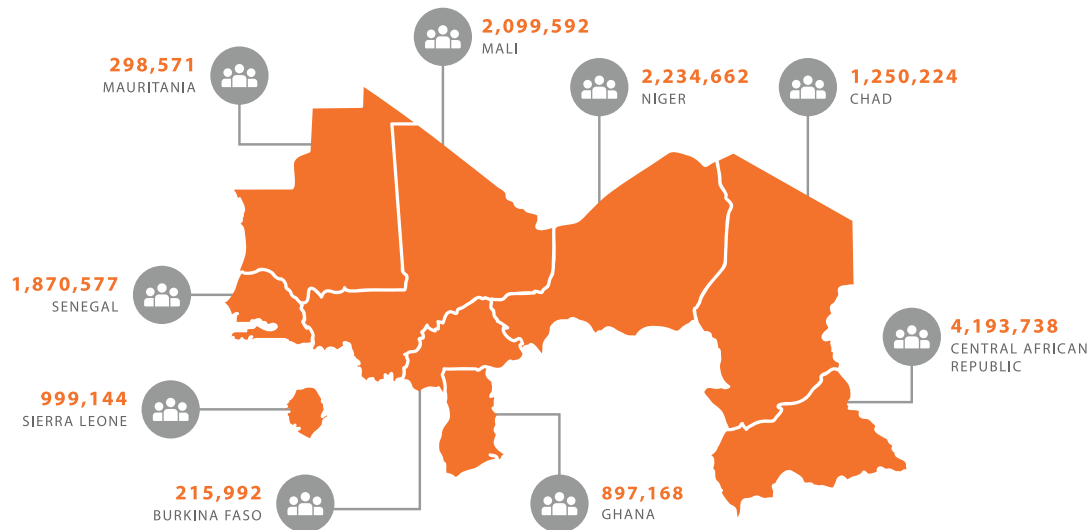


\$221 Million +
Budget



1,900+
Staff

People Reached By Country



People Reached By Programme





2023 Programme Impact

◀ Children playing educational games at a reading camp in a community supported by World Vision. Reading camps help boost children's literacy as well as their comprehension and overall confidence.

Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision

Child Protection



1,951,871 People Reached



1,640,640 Children



311,231 Adults

Across each of our programming sectors, World Vision integrates child protection mechanisms accompanied by an intense advocacy plan to protect children against harmful traditional practices and other activities that pose a threat to their fulfilment of their rights. Over the past year, effective intervention models and approaches applied throughout our projects and activities have made it possible to increase children's participation across our activities. These models and approaches included equipping children's clubs in communities and schools, as well as youth educational groups. In total, we reached more than **1.9 million** people in 2023 through our child protection activities.

Our approach of investing in children has led to a growth in the number of activities involving children in areas where we work across the region, including activities specifically aimed at ending violence against children. Key to this growth has been

community, group, and peer-to-peer awareness-raising. Additionally, World Vision has worked with community members through awareness-raising and behaviour change activities to promote children's rights and ensure that they are respected. In total, **423,138** adults were involved in awareness-raising and behaviour change activities organised by World Vision, while **1,030,538** children involved in activities to combat violence against children.

Thanks to referral and feedback mechanisms coupled with safeguarding incident preparedness plans established in communities, **500** cases were identified and referred throughout our various programme intervention areas throughout the year.



Children participating in fun activities at their child-friendly space in Kaya, Burkina Faso.

Photo: Noëlie Sawadogo/World Vision

Impact Story



* Identity concealed due to sensitive information.

““““

I was forced to elope by Mr. M living in Ghana. He forced me to stay with him against my will for seven days. I was confined in his house and my movements were closely monitored to ensure that I didn't escape back home to my parents. I hardly ate anything in his home for fear that I could be charmed by the food to confuse my mind so that I would stay with him forever.

At my age, I had not started thinking about marrying anyone because of my education.

Through the efforts of my parents, community, Kids' Club, Child Welfare Supervisor (CWS) teacher and the intervention of World Vision's Jirapa Area Programme in Ghana, I was rescued and reunited with my family to continue with my education.

I am forever grateful to Julitha, my friend and a member of the Kids' Club in my community, who learned about this unfortunate incident when she visited me at home but could not find me and reported the case to a CWS teacher in my school. The teacher subsequently reported the incident to the child protection committee in my community and the

Jirapa Area Programme who worked expeditiously for my rescue. I was extremely excited when I saw that a team from World Vision and my community were in Karni to rescue me.

I pledge to continue with my education to the highest level to serve as a role model to other kids in my community.

I urge all government agencies, NGOs, opinion leaders, and everyone to join hands in fighting against all forms of violence against the girl child.

Nora (name changed)

Education



642,223 People Reached



513,278 Children



128,945 Adults

World Vision aspires for all children to be educated for life in a safe and nurturing environment, in order for them to lead productive and fulfilling lives. The World Bank's latest statistics drawing from UNESCO data (State of Global Learning Poverty, 2022 Update) paint a concerning picture of the state of education worldwide. The Central Sahel region has been disproportionately impacted by security and political crises, exacerbating educational disparities.

With 224 million school-aged children affected by the Central Sahel crisis and 72 million lacking access to school, urgent action is needed to address these challenges. These figures underscore the urgent need for increased investments and global action to address unprecedented disruptions in education, particularly among the most vulnerable populations.

In 2023, our education interventions reached more than **642,000** people, including over **513,000**

children aged 0-17. This constitutes about **88%** of the most vulnerable children that we had targeted for education interventions across our programming areas. Notable achievements stemmed from the establishment of reading clubs, teacher training initiatives, and community engagement programmes.

Our Unlock Literacy project model was particularly impactful, leading to achievements that included the training of **3,459** teachers and **2,776** community volunteers to support children's learning, and the establishment of **1,262** new reading clubs. Unlock Literacy aims to ensure children in the early grades of primary school learn to read - so they can read to learn, and become active, fluent readers with lifelong literacy skills.



Children intently following their lessons at a school supported by World Vision in Mauritania.

Photo: Chris Montgomery/World Vision

Health & Nutrition



5,817,908 People Reached



3,249,045 Children



2,568,863 Adults



A young student enjoys a nutritious meal at his school in Bouar, Central African Republic. Nutritious school meals provide energy for children to thrive and succeed.

Photo: Alexandre Gassama/World Vision

We envision a world where all children are healthy and well-nourished. Good health and nutrition empower children, families, and communities, enabling them to thrive. In 2023, World Vision reached more than **5.8 million** people across the region through its health and nutrition activities. World Vision collaborated with government and non-governmental partners, community health workers, parents, caregivers, and children themselves to strengthen local health systems, fight malnutrition, implement capacity-building and behaviour change interventions, and promote health and nutrition practices.

Malnutrition being an underlying cause of 45% of global deaths among children under five years old ([2021 Global Nutrition Report](#)), World Vision strategically intensified efforts to prevent and treat malnutrition across the region, reaching **659,721** children through nutrition activities. We worked with community health workers to enrol **6,630** children in activities linked to the Positive Deviance/Hearth approach, which is a community-based and food-based approach that aims at reducing the prevalence of malnutrition among children under five years. Among the children who were enrolled, **80%** received follow-up and improved their nutritional status after 3 months.

To support community-based management of acute malnutrition, World Vision collaborated with health ministries in the training of **4,270** community

health workers and other staff training, supportive supervision, logistics support, and activities to strengthen community screening and referral systems. About **96%** of the **5,456** children with wasting and or nutritional oedema admitted for treatment in areas where we intervened recovered from wasting.

We made significant strides in our efforts to fight infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS through our partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria and other partners in activities that included mass campaigns and the distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to protect communities from malaria. These activities, which reached more than **1.2 million** children aged 0-18 years, allowed us to make an effective contribution to reducing the prevalence of malaria, which remains the main cause of death among children in the region. Additionally, World Vision implemented interventions to sensitise more than **249,276** people on tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, leading to the referral and treatment of **293** cases of tuberculosis.

In collaboration with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and other partners, World Vision contributed to increased immunisation rates across our areas of operation through the implementation of interventions that saw a total of **216,779** children aged 0-5 years receive essential vaccines.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

 **1,818,940** People Reached
  **431,002** Children
  **1,385,938** Adults

People gaining access to:



Hygiene
720,630

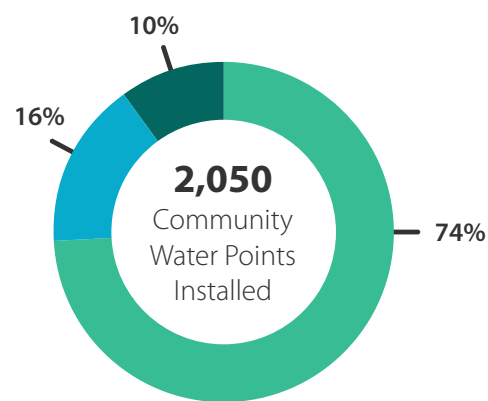


Water
541,732



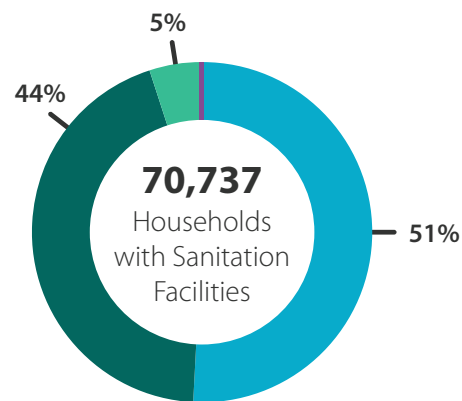
Sanitation
463,039

14 District-Level Plans Developed
 



Community Water Points by Type

- Community Taps
- Household Taps
- Hand Pumps



Household Sanitation by SDG Service Level

- Basic
- Unimproved
- Limited (Shared)
- Safely Managed

Schools gaining access to:



Basic Hygiene 1,258	Training in planning and budgeting of WASH services 529	Basic Sanitation 419	Basic Water 196
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Healthcare facilities gaining access to:



Basic Hygiene 220	Cleaning policies and protocols 113	Basic Sanitation 98	Basic Water 97
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Community Interventions:



Faith leaders trained 2,183	Local businesses active in WASH 1,129	WASH communities formed and trained 1,034	Piped water systems built 188
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Access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene gives children and their families a chance to flourish. We believe every child deserves – and has the right – to use safe water and live in a clean environment. In 2023, World Vision made significant progress in shifting from hand pumps to mechanised, piped-water systems. The first of such systems was built in Central African Republic, and a large mechanised system in Ghana is providing not only water for drinking, but enough to sustain a 50-acre garden that supports hundreds of growers.

Savings groups supported by World Vision enabled more families to build or improve latrines and hygiene facilities in their homes. We witnessed significant progress achieved through these small loans in Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal, and in Niger where these groups are supporting the work of women who make and sell hygiene products in their communities. Women are also taking more responsibility for managing WASH services in their communities. In Central African Republic, their participation in water management and hygiene and sanitation committees saw growing numbers, representing more than 40% of community WASH volunteers.

Christian and Muslim leaders continue to be valued partners, providing vital COVID-19

prevention education in Central African Republic and promoting safe hygiene and sanitation practices and constructing household latrines in Mali. We also saw impressive achievements in water (252%) and sanitation (146%), thanks to grants from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and others, which increased spending levels in Central African Republic.

In Chad, hygiene achievements (217%) were impressive because of a focus on helping villages create post-ODF (Open-Defecation Free) plans that focused on soap-making and hygiene. Teams in Mauritania and Niger report that using private contractors to oversee procurement, quality of materials, construction and maintenance of water systems is improving quality control and longevity for water systems.



In this community located not far from the Diatoula refugee camp in Mali, children access clean water and adequate hygiene and sanitation facilities near their homes.

Photo: Salomon Guindou/World Vision

Environmental Sustainability & Climate Action (ESCA)



11,517 People Trained



5,658 Hectares Protected & Restored

The goal of our ESCA initiatives is to create a thriving environment for children and the future generations to come, by restoring the natural environment and working for climate justice. To accelerate climate action in the region, World Vision launched a scale-up business plan for the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) project model. This followed the adoption of the Regreening Communities (RGC) project model to guide the implementation of ESCA across all our offices in addressing unsustainable farming practices, poor exploitation of natural resources, and rapidly degrading landscapes. The training of farmers resulted in **5,658** hectares of land being protected and restored in 2023.

World Vision trained **11,517** individuals in improved sustainable agricultural practices including climate smart agriculture, natural resource management, FMNR, sustainable fisheries and ecosystems restoration, among other key initiatives.

Furthermore, World Vision supported the installation of **118** solar-powered mechanised systems, further promoting the use of renewable energy in place of environmental harmful practices such as diesel-powered generators. Additionally, all World Vision National (Country) Offices in the West Africa region have identified ESCA leads and installation of Green Teams to coordinate the implementation of the World Vision International partnership policy on ESCA.

The regional Wise Stewardship and Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action initiative involved all the National Offices developing comprehensive action plans to exercise frugality and highest possible duty of care towards environment and climate action. The action plan covered all programmatic and operations areas of World Vision in the region.



Involving children in light activities such as tending to kitchen gardens can help them learn about their environment from an early age and encourage their meaningful participation in sustainable practices.

Photo: Noëlie Sawadogo/World Vision



Almu, a farmer in Niger, enjoys the health of his crops following his training by World Vision on sustainable farming practices. Almu and other farmers learned about the Zai technique, which is particularly suited to highly degraded soils. Today, the technique is providing several benefits and proving as a successful approach in water and soil conservation.

Photo: Garba Mamoudou, Mahaman Salissou/World Vision

Livelihoods & Economic Development



1,424,636 People Reached



749,846 Children



674,790 Adults

As the region continued to navigate the intertwined challenges of conflict, climate change, and food insecurity, World Vision's livelihoods interventions underscored the importance of holistic approaches to addressing complex livelihood challenges necessary for resilient livelihoods and improved children's well-being. In 2023, World Vision's efforts reached more than **1.4 million** people, exceeding our target by 17%. Fifty-two percent of the people we reached were children.

Through the Building Secure Livelihoods (BSL), Savings for Transformation (S4T), and Women's Economic Empowerment models, World Vision worked to empower communities with the skills, resources, and support networks for sustainable income generation

and asset building. This work enhanced access to finance, and facilitated market linkages, which not only help communities mitigate the immediate impacts of crises but also contribute to long-term development and poverty reduction efforts.

Other achievements included promoting member-owned savings structures through which **188,096** members from **7,292** S4T groups mobilised more than **US\$ 6.5 million** throughout the year. Overall, **338,437** children benefitted from these initiatives. Sustaining investments in such initiatives remains essential for fostering resilience, promoting stability, and advancing sustainable development goals.



Maimouna has reaped big thanks to savings groups. With her first loan, she bought a small freezer and some sheep to trade, which allowed her to earn her own income and provide for her children.

Photo: Megali Nanayakkara/World Vision

VisionFund Microfinance



159,884 Active Borrowers



591,181 Children Impacted



79.6% Female Clients



In 2023, VisionFund marked its 20-year anniversary - a significant milestone of transformative work that has improved lives in some of the most vulnerable communities across the region.

Photo: Megali Nanayakkara/World Vision

VisionFund is a Christian microfinance network that is fully owned by World Vision and works to deliver on World Vision's livelihoods promise. VisionFund works to impact children in low-income, vulnerable, or rural communities, providing financial and livelihood solutions that enable households and communities to thrive by providing access to appropriate services that focus on client needs.

Recognising the vulnerability and capacity of communities, VisionFund offers a diverse and tailored range of products, including Microloans (individual, group) in agricultural, business, WASH domains, Microinsurance, Savings Products, and Finance Accelerating Savings Group Transformation (FAST). In addition, these products are supported by the essential services that are required for a deep and effective transformation of all the most vulnerable populations and for sustainable capacity building, such as training in financial literacy, business skills, empowered digital inclusion, health, agriculture, child protection and Empowered Worldview (EWW). This specific EWW training aims to change the mindset of both VisionFund staff and clients from one of scarcity and limitation to one of abundance and a vision for a better future as God intended.

In West Africa, VisionFund operates in 3 countries: Ghana, Senegal, and Mali. Last year, the network registered over **159,000** clients, 82% of whom were women, and reached over **591,181** children. Around three quarter of these customers come from rural, sometimes hard-to-reach, isolated areas with low financial inclusion.

Some evidence outcomes have been recorded, showing that in Senegal, VisionFund was able to account up to 80% of clients who received a loan for the first time. Around 48% of its customers said to have earned an income from their business and employ other people, and 51% said they had the ability to improve their quality of life, enabling them to invest and cover household expenses. Finally, up to 55% of customers reported being able to manage their finances very well.

Following the implementation of FAST in Ghana, 94% of members declared an improvement in their ability to pay school fees and care for their children. In addition, almost all members have found the financial management training provided useful and are keen to receive more.

Faith & Development



924,441 People Reached



754,670 Children



169,771 Adults

As a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation, we understand the power of faith for the lives of children, adults and communities. Therefore, we collaborate and mobilise people who share common values of compassion, love and mercy and want to change children's lives.

In 2023, we strengthened our Faith & Development capacity across all National Offices with emphasis on enhancing organisational capacity assessments and organisational capacity-building towards effective positioning for partnering and programme implementation. World Vision provided training in core project models and approaches to staff and partners, and ensured quality integration in programmes and implementation of these enabling project models

across the region. Notably, we scaled up Spiritual Nurturing of Children (SNC) with age-appropriate teaching and learning resources.

Cumulatively, World Vision reached more than **924,000** people, including **754,670** children and **169,771** adults through the implementation of the various core project models and approaches. This was a 15% and 20% increase in the number of children and adults respectively reached through Faith & Development programming in 2022.



Faith leaders gathering to develop common messaging around water, sanitation and hygiene for their communities in Mali.

Photo: Chris Huber/World Vision

Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI)



1,381,266 People Reached



848,022 Children



533,244 Adults



Absa (11) was born with disabilities. Her mother Mariama, who was married at a young age, received support from World Vision and VisionFund to overcome financial and communal barriers; ensuring that Absa and her sister receive the care and support they require.

Photo: Megali Nanayakkara/World Vision

World Vision seeks to build a world where all children have equal rights, value and opportunities. We work to transform power relations and systems that drive inequality and exclusion. Our focus in recent years has been in scaling up the quality of our interventions with gender mainstreaming. This began by an intensive process of conducting GESI self-assessment of our offices worldwide and the process is still ongoing in some of our National Offices. With results of this work already emerging, our initiatives delved deeper to include strong targets and work more actively to increase girls and women's agency in relevant platforms and clubs, as well as to increase support provided to women in accessing and management of resources.

In 2023, World Vision reached more than **848,000** children were reached through its activities. We supported **40,810** women and girls in accessing and management of resources, and **72,717** women and girls to take part in sessions conducted to develop their agency. Other achievements included awareness-raising activities on GESI through **35,808** sessions which enabled us to inform communities on gender equality notions, women's rights, and strategies to increase the participation of people living with disabilities in community development.

Positive masculinity is also a growing step into our work. We thus included **21,395** men and boys in our activities to demonstrate behaviours and practices in favour of women and girls. Overall, our initiatives involved a total of **390,758** community members in behaviour change communication activities on gender issues. Progressively, two of our National Offices have started using the approach of boys and men involvement in the fight against gender inequality, through activities to develop and strengthen positive masculinity. World Vision's Central African Republic and Senegal Offices piloted this through **21,395** sessions with an evaluated impact of better understanding implementation and tolerance of GESI activities throughout the community. This acceptance of GESI activities was equally enabled by engaging sessions held with traditional and religious leaders in **7,564** activities to fight against gender-based violence in the region.

Another perspective of our fight against gender inequality was through advocacy sessions to state entities for the promotion of gender equality and seeking increased action with regards to GESI. World Vision conducted **21** advocacy sessions throughout the year.

Impact Story

“

After some period of active participation in kids' clubs, I started realising great changes in my confidence level. My public speaking skills and my knowledge of child rights and protection issues also started growing.

At that point, I contested and won the election for the President of the Children's Forum Network, which is the highest children's panel accredited by the Sierra Leone Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs in my district. I was then selected through World Vision to participate in the Sierra Leone Medium-Term National Development Plan in the Capital of Freetown, which is my first national assignment.

As a result of my good performance, I was also selected to participate in the 3rd African Union Girls Summit in 2021 through an online discussion platform. A month later, I was also nominated to be the Young Champion to End Child Marriage in Sierra Leone. Moreover, I am now a member of the Children's Advocacy Advisory Group (CAAG) for World Vision International, participating in many child-focused and child-centred activities at international fora.

One of my most wonderful experiences was participating in the Intergenerational dialogue between young people and World Vision UK Leaders. Today, I feel so happy and I am very proud of who I am. I am well respected in my community; my people see me as a very good example that many other girls should follow. I feel fulfilled because I am contributing greatly to ending all forms of violence against my fellow children. I believe this will help to strengthen my voice and make me a respected participant in decision-making on issues affecting the well-being of colleague children. This will build a strong foundation for my child advocacy and activism work and make me become empowered in the future.

I would not have achieved all this had I not been part of the kids club.

Mariama (18, pictured wearing a headscarf)



Photo: Abdulai Kamara/World Vision

Disaster Management



6,725,079 People Reached



1,828,876 Children



4,896,203 Adults



Appoline (pictured with her daughter) is hopeful after she received support and training as part of World Vision's interventions to increase the livelihoods of crisis-affected households in the Boucle du Mouhoun Region in Burkina Faso.

Photo: Noëlie Sawadogo

In the complex and challenging landscape of West Africa, a multitude of challenges threaten community stability and well-being, highlighting the critical humanitarian aspect of the situation. Persistent insecurity, political instability, extreme poverty, increasing living costs, and conflicts exacerbate tensions, displacing populations and disrupting community cohesion. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to this violence, perpetuating cycles of exploitation and suffering. Additionally, the spectre of hunger and food insecurity, worsened by climate change, environmental degradation, and protracted conflicts, deepens vulnerabilities, undermines livelihoods, and sustains humanitarian needs within affected communities.

World Vision has responded with a strategic approach and multisectoral intervention integrating faith-based to address these growing needs, tackling the root causes of vulnerability and promoting sustainable development across the region. In 2023, World Vision continued to respond providing immediate relief and sustainable solutions to seven emergencies across the region. We reached more than **6.7 million** people (including **1.8 million** children) along with sustained humanitarian responses in Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad (National Response), Mali, and Niger. Additionally, World Vision supported more than **140,000** people affected by conflict in Sudan by providing crucial food assistance and protection in Chad and CAR. In addition to the five major response countries, World Vision's work to address the hunger crisis reached **1,560,640** people in seven countries including Sierra Leone and Mauritania.

World Vision's response initiatives reached more than **1,795,991** people through cash and food assistance and strengthened the resilience and livelihoods of over **31,968** households with physical agricultural assets and activities to enhance their capacity to withstand future shocks. Initiatives such as school feeding programmes which reached **490,238** children elevated school attendance and retention, empowering displaced children, sustaining school attendance, and paving the way for brighter futures for the communities served.

These multisectoral interventions including crucial food assistance alleviated hunger among vulnerable communities, enhanced food access, and reduced child labour. Through its Fragile Context Programming Approach (FCPA) and peacebuilding initiatives, World Vision delivered a safe, coherent, and sustained child well-being impact and fostered dialogue and reconciliation in conflict-affected communities across the region.

As emerging trends, such as the spill over of the Central Sahel crisis onto coastal countries like Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, and Benin, underscore the interconnectedness of regional dynamics, World Vision is already present in Ghana and stands ready to address emerging needs and vulnerabilities in collaboration with communities, governments, and other partners. Through its holistic and community-centred approach, World Vision remains committed to promoting peace, resilience, and sustainable development in West Africa, empowering communities to build brighter futures for themselves and future generations.

Advocacy & External Engagement



57,279,795 Vulnerable Children impacted by Policy Changes



66 Policy Changes



6 Policy Changes linked to **ENOUGH** Campaign

In a region where children and families are confronted with the harsh realities of armed conflict, instability, climate-related challenges, hunger, malnutrition and health crises, our collective efforts alongside the communities we serve, aim to restore hope, and seek justice. Through focused advocacy and external engagement, we have made significant progress in improving access to essential services and safeguarding vulnerable populations, particularly children and promoting sustainable development.

Our advocacy interventions, spanning the sectors of child protection, education, health, and nutrition, have brought tangible changes not only to policies but also to the lives they affect. By mobilising communities, forming coalitions, and engaging faith groups strategically, we have made substantial strides in enhancing health, education, and nutrition outcomes.

Key Milestones:

- **Child Protection and Ending Violence against Children:** A cornerstone of the advocacy efforts has been the bolstering of child protection mechanisms. In Chad, the National Policy on Child Protection, augmented by Law 0016/PR/1999 and Law 0029, has laid a foundational framework safeguarding children against early marriage and ensuring their right to education. This framework now shelters over 7.5 million children, with specific emphasis on those vulnerable to early marriage and disabilities. Similarly, in Senegal, a budget increment for the Child Protection Department signifies a strengthened

commitment to child rights and safety, impacting over 9 million children.

- **Health and Nutrition:** Healthcare accessibility, particularly for marginalised groups, has seen notable improvements. In the Central African Republic and Niger, policy amendments have enhanced the supply chain for medicines and introduced free healthcare for pregnant women and children under five, respectively. These changes have broadened healthcare coverage, touching the lives of nearly 900,000 people in dire need of medical services. Moreover, the fight against healthcare-associated infections in Niger stands as a testament to the proactive measures being taken to curb maternal and new-born mortality. In Sierra Leone, the National School Feeding Policy now ensures meals for 1.97 million children, promoting local food production and community involvement.

However, the glaring issue of malnutrition persists, underscoring the need for intensified efforts in nutrition advocacy. The development and approval of the National Food Safety Policy in Ghana, alongside guidelines aimed at bolstering food security and dietary practices, marked pivotal steps toward this goal. World Vision successfully contributed to the Guideline Development which is aiming to improve nutrition and health for over 17.9 million children in Ghana. These initiatives, especially the emphasis on safe, nutritious, and sufficient food, directly contribute to tackling malnutrition, a condition that severely affects children's physical and cognitive development.

- **Education:** Education policies have undergone significant revisions to make learning more inclusive and accessible. Mali's Non-Formal Education Policy and Mauritania's inclusion of national languages in the education curriculum reflect a broadening of the educational spectrum to accommodate diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Moreover, the provision of educational materials in Mali, ensuring adherence to the student-to-book ratio, exemplifies the practical steps being taken to enhance learning environments for more than 14,000 students.
- **Water Access:** In Chad, the advocacy for affordable water access in the Ngourkosso cluster has dramatically improved living conditions for 18,000 residents. By engaging with community and religious leaders, the cost of water was significantly reduced, demonstrating the power of community-driven advocacy in addressing basic needs. Similarly, in Burkina Faso, World Vision's influence has been instrumental in implementing the National Water Policy (2016 – 2030), impacting the lives of 11,400 individuals, including 3,823 girls and 3,647 boys. Ten community WASH advocates, including five religious leaders, actively supported this initiative through awareness sessions promoting good WASH practices.

Case Study

Celebrating Supporter Action for Child Rights in Ghana

Over the past five years, World Vision Ghana has been at the forefront of advocating for children's rights, recording an impressive number of supporter actions as part of our advocacy wins. In 2019 alone, we proudly reported **2.5 million** supporter actions, accounting for over half of the **4.5 million** actions reported by World Vision globally. Despite challenges posed by COVID-19, our commitment remains unwavering.

In 2023, despite the obstacles, we once again made significant strides, recording **910,500** supporter actions. This reflects our steadfast dedication to the cause of ending violence against children.

World Vision's partnership with esteemed organisations like Girls Not Brides Ghana, NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child, and others, allow us to organise impactful activities commemorating global and regional campaign moments throughout the year. From the African Union Day for the African Child to the International Day of the Girl Child, these events serve

as powerful platforms to raise awareness and advocate for change.

Through petitions, communiqués, press statements, and grassroots mobilisation, we call upon the Government to prioritise child protection, ensure safe communities, and enforce laws to end all forms of violence against children. Our supporters play a pivotal role in amplifying these calls to action across the nation.

World Vision diligently monitored the collective efforts of our supporters during these campaign moments, spanning all 16 regions in Ghana. It is important to note that these activities are driven by the passion and dedication of our supporters, as they generously give their time and energy to champion the rights of children.



Children in Abourso community happily pose to join in advocating to end child malnutrition.

Photo: Nathaniel Abadji/World Vision

Funding & Finance

Growing Resources for Children

Over the past year, the region faced changes in the donor landscape due to political instability, particularly in some Sahel countries. World Vision has been impacted in those countries by the withdrawal of funding and/or suspension of activities by some donors. However, we have shown agility to diversify our funding sources and meet the increasing needs of the communities we serve.

With awards totalling **US\$ 189 million**, we exceeded our acquisition target of \$99 million by **190%**. We raised funds

internationally and locally from bilateral (government), multilateral (including United Nations agencies), private institutional (foundations) and private individual partners. Our top three funding sectors in 2023 were livelihoods, food assistance, and maternal, new-born, child, and adolescent health. During the year, World Vision West Africa maintained its place of partner of choice to the World Food Programme who invested **US\$ 84 million** to reach communities in Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Mali, and Niger.

These achievements are the result of close collaboration and commitment from World Vision entities at all levels who worked together to strengthen ties with existing/regular

donors and developed relationships with new donors to position World Vision as a partner of choice. We have also strengthened partnerships at all levels for the effective implementation of grants.

The localisation approach facilitated World Vision to intervene in Cameroon and Nigeria in addition to seven of our nine presence countries where we implement the Gavi-funded RAISE 4 Sahel immunisation project targeting fragile and conflict settings. Through RAISE 4 Sahel, we partnered to administer **65,327** vaccine doses to the most vulnerable children.

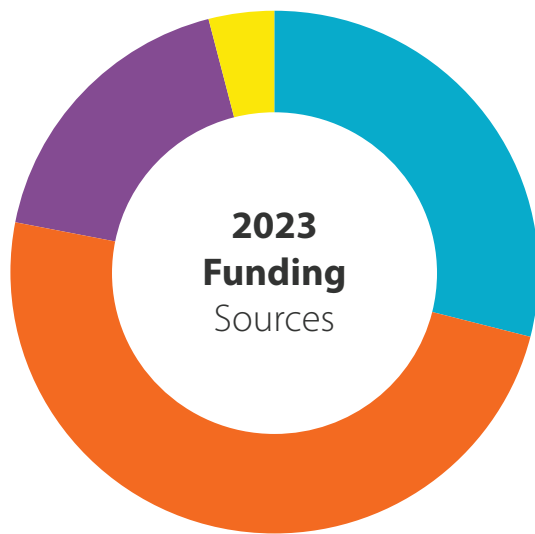
Donors & Partners



2023 Financial Summary

Funding grew by 21% as compared to 2022, mainly from government grants and multilaterals. We ended the financial year with funding commitments worth \$258 million (compared to \$213 million in 2022) across the nine countries we work in. We raised total of **US\$ 6.7 million** locally, representing an 18% increase on a year-on-year basis.

Funding Sources

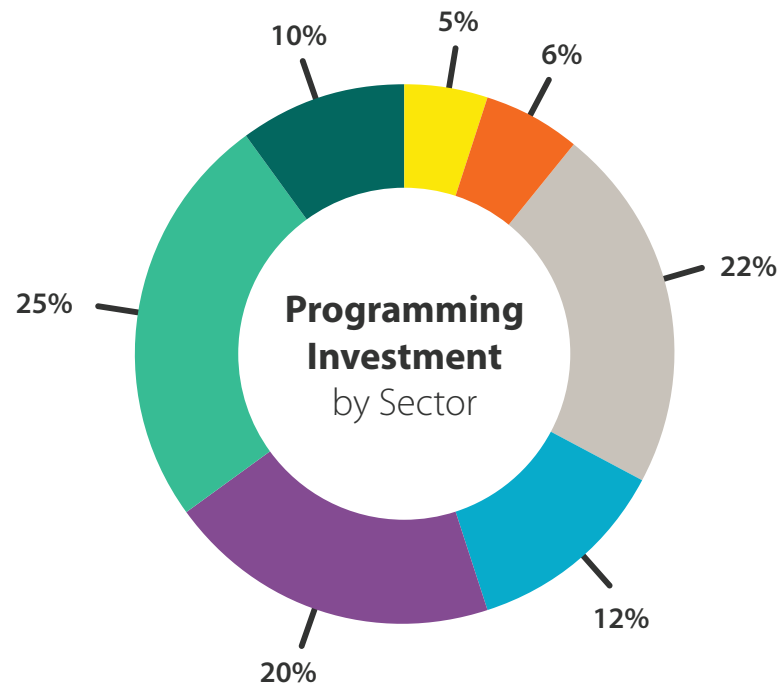


- Sponsorship
- Government & Multilaterals
- Private Funding
- Goods in Kind

Our diverse portfolio of funding sources included public grants and multilaterals, private funding, and child sponsorship which enabled our National Offices to respond to the needs of their contexts.

Programming Investment by Sector

During the year under review, the region had five sustained humanitarian responses following disasters in many countries. Thus, we invested significantly in disaster management, in addition to health and nutrition, livelihoods and WASH.



- Child Protection & Participation
- Education & Life Skills
- Health and Nutrition
- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene
- Livelihoods & Food Assistance
- Disaster Management
- Social Accountability

Governance & Accountability

Safeguarding

The safeguarding of every person participating to our activities, be it children or adults, is at the core of our interventions. Several mechanisms are put in place to ensure this, and we manage these across a dual perspective: prevention and response. Prevention initiatives range from intense sensitisation, establishment of complaint mechanisms, and frequent capacity-building for safeguarding focal points. Additionally, processes for the comprehensive screening of new staff members, partners and affiliates include face-to-face and online briefing sessions on safeguarding after recruitment, a mandatory annual safeguarding week, and close monitoring of our community feedback mechanisms.

All reported incidents are investigated and dealt with in line with World Vision policies. If inappropriate behaviour is confirmed, consequences may include dismissal from World Vision and reporting the incident to law enforcement authorities for criminal prosecution. For child survivors in particular, their immediate safety and longer-term recovery is our priority, and so we also provide support to the survivors and help to seek justice for them.

This past year, a total of seven Level 3 incidents were investigated and closed. Key enablers to the efficient

management of these incidents were processes to regularly update safeguarding incident preparedness plans across the region, as well as systematic actions to ensure the wellbeing of all survivors through a survivor-centred approach that includes psychosocial support.

Through our Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) programmes, members of local communities, including children, are having their voices heard in government decisions. In 2023, the CVA Database enabled over **113** communities across five National Offices to provide feedback on their service delivery experiences. The result is a comprehensive, visually rich, and flexible analytics platform with dashboards that can reveal patterns of public service challenges and provide evidence for communities to influence policy. To complement our growing CVA practice and respond to evidence from the sector, World Vision pioneered work in participatory budgeting in countries including Ghana.

To learn more about our safeguarding approach, please visit <https://www.wvi.org/safeguarding>

To visit our publicly available CVA dashboard, please visit <https://www.wvi.org/social-accountability/cva-database>.



Children playing at the Child Friendly Space in Mile Refugee Camp in Guerera, Chad.

Photo: Jon Warren/World Vision

Governance in West Africa

World Vision has adopted the federalist form of governance and overall is guided by World Vision International core documents and bylaws. Within this framework, it is possible for each World Vision National Office to become a legally separate but interdependent entity within the international World Vision Partnership governed by its own board of directors who represent World Vision's commitment to: (i) Responsible ministry within their own nation; (ii) Genuine partnership in global ministry; and (iii) Mutual accountability for resources.

Most offices within World Vision however start as branches of World Vision International. After some time of operating as a branch, they may seek approval to form an Advisory Council to aid in their governance and growth. Once the

Advisory Council is well established, and other criteria are satisfied, the office may seek recognition from the World Vision International Board as a National Office Branch, with voting rights at the World Vision International Council and the Regional Forums.

In West Africa, World Vision's Ghana Office has a Board of Directors, while World Vision's Chad, Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone Offices have Advisory Councils. The Boards of Directors and Advisory Councils typically comprise individuals appointed and selected following a developed diversity matrix that ensures a mix of skillsets relevant to provide the appropriate oversight over the organisation. Board and Advisory Council members are usually drawn from various fields and offer expertise, insights, and diverse perspectives to guide the organisation's growth and development. They also advise the National Director/Chief Executive Officer in their

contexts, drawing from their experience and knowledge in specific fields of expertise. The selection process of Board and Advisory Council members considers diversity of skill, age, church affiliation, geographical location, and gender, among others.

The Boards and Advisory Councils of all National Offices and World Vision International share Christian commitments and agree to work together in accordance with the World Vision International Covenant of Partnership so that the ethos, mission, vision, and integrity of the Partnership are upheld.

We take this opportunity to recognise and thank the Board and Advisory Council Chairpersons below for their service and for their diligence and contributions to the realisation of our Global Strategy (Our Promise) for the children of West Africa.



Madame Therese Diatta
Advisory Council Chairperson
World Vision Senegal



Dr. Mary Amoako Coleman
Board Chairperson
World Vision Ghana



Mr. Joseph Yalcouyé
Advisory Council Chairperson
World Vision Mali



Dr. Mbainadji Lodoum
Advisory Council Chairperson
World Vision Chad



Mr. Amadu John Serry
Advisory Council Chairperson
World Vision Sierra Leone

WE



ARE



WORLD



VISION





Our vision for every child is
life in all its fullness.
Our prayer for every heart is
the will to make it so.

A sponsored child in Ghana.

Photo: Ben Adams/World Vision



www.wvi.org/africa



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At World Vision, our focus is on helping the most vulnerable children, in the most dangerous places, overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian faith, we've worked together with communities, partners, local leaders and governments, for over 70 years, so that children – of all faiths and none – are empowered to experience fullness of life.

July 2024